

# Israel National Obstetric Anesthesia WhatsApp group as a communication tool before and during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic

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## Results

The WhatsApp group comprises 38 senior obstetric anesthesiologists working in 19 Israeli centers. A total of 334 topics were discussed, 2772 messages sent in total. The median time to first response was 4.5 minutes, a median of 4 members responded, with a median of 7 replies. The median response time before the pandemic was 5 minutes, a median of 5 members of this group responded to a topic raised and a median of 7 responses were sent. During the pandemic the median response time was 4 minutes, with a median of 4 group members participating in a discussion and a median of 7 messages sent. According to the questionnaires, 25/25 participants agreed they benefitted greatly using the group, 5 out of 5 (5= “benefited greatly “and 1= “did not learn anything “).

## Conclusion

Members of this WhatsApp group responded quickly to discussion questions, and benefited from this communication especially in times of crises like the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. Such groups may be useful for other specialists to rapidly exchange information, ideas, and as a platform for online clinical and scientific discussions.

## Introduction

In order to communicate with Obstetric Anesthesia colleagues in other Israeli centers, we founded an Israel obstetric anesthesia WhatsApp group in March 2017. We aimed to report WhatsApp group activities in the period before and during the SARS-CoV-2-pandemic.

## Methods

We retrieved data from the chat history of the WhatsApp group and report topics discussed (patient case, clinical discussion, obstetric unit organization, conference-related, articles, lectures, questionnaires) and response time to questions posed. To investigate the utility of the WhatsApp group for members, two questionnaires were sent, one before and one during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.

